

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

For Buildings and Structures

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-----|---------------------|
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY | | | |
| TOWN NO.: | SITE NO.: | | |
| UTM: 18/ | / | / | / |
| QUAD: | | | |
| DISTRICT: | S | NR: | ACTUAL POTENTIAL |

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _____ Historic: Danforth Pewter Shop
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 120 College Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Farmer's & Mechanic's Savings Bank PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Vacant Historic: Pewter Shop; apartments
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with owner's permission no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate front applied to Colonial Shop DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1759
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 clapboard under siding asbestos siding ___ brick
___ wood shingle ___ asphalt siding ___ fieldstone
___ board & batten ___ stucco ___ cobblestone
___ aluminum siding ___ concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: brownstone
___ other: _____ foundation
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: shop
 wood frame: post and beam balloon front
___ load bearing masonry ___ structural iron or steel
___ other: _____
- 10. ROOF: type:
 gableshop flat front ___ mansard ___ monitor ___ sawtooth
___ gambrel ___ shed ___ hip ___ round ___ other _____
material:
shop wood shingle ___ roll asphalt ___ tin ___ slate
shop asphalt shingle built up front ___ tile ___ other: Original section 17'x35'
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: Italianate addition 30'x20'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: ___ excellent good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
Exterior: ___ excellent ___ good fair ___ deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site ___ moved, when: _____
Alterations: ___ no yes, explain: See #18
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
___ barn ___ shed ___ garage other landscape features or buildings: Joseph Danforth House to west
___ carriage house ___ shop ___ garden
- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
___ open land ___ woodland residential ___ scattered buildings visible from site
 commercial ___ industrial ___ rural high building density
- 16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This building faces south from the north side of College Street between Main and Broad Streets. To the east is the parking lot of the Farmer's & Mechanic's Bank, and to the west is a colonial house to which this structure was once attached as a dependency. Across College Street is a vacant theater and lot

(see continuation sheet)

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Cased beams
Original crown molding at cornice line
Some old sash remain

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This structure is the only known eighteenth century artisan's shop in Middletown. It was built around 1759 for Thomas Danforth (1731-1782), a renowned pewterer whose impact on the industry is measured by the artistic quality of his work, his innovative business practices, and the large number of pewterers he trained, including his six sons. Upon his death in 1782 the business was taken over by Thomas's son, Joseph Danforth. Joseph Danforth's house stands just west of this building (see form for 122-124 College Street).

An Italianate front was added to the original structure probably when it passed out of the Danforth family in 1866. More recently the building was divided for use as apartments. A site investigation and an old map view recreate the approximate original appearance of the Danforth Pewter Shop. It displayed a two story, three-bay, gable-to-street facade with entrance in the east bay. The forge chimney stack (now removed) rose from the center of the 17'x35' structure. Danforth family probate records list assortments of pewter in the shop; it apparently was used as both store and shop. The second floor was probably

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 9/78 view: north
negative on file: Roll 31, #31



(see continuation sheet)

COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 8/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; E.P. Augur, "Jonathan Yeomans House 1749," Colonial Dames Monograph; J.C. Thomas, Connecticut Pewter and Pewterers (Connecticut Historical Society Publications, 1976); Ledlie I. Laughlin, Pewter in America:
20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: Farmer's &

Mechanic's Savings Bank has purchased property for intended parking expansion: an on site preservation effort is unlikely, however, bank will permit developer to remove structure from site.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 16&18 Date: 8/78
&19

Danforth Pewter Shop
120 College Street, Middletown, Ct. 06457

#16

awaiting redevelopment. The original portion of this structure was set back from the street; a subsequent addition to the front is in line with the neighboring structures close to the street.

#18

occupied by the many apprentices known to have been trained by the Danforths.

This historic structure is significant for its association with the Danforth family whose efforts made Middletown a colonial center of an important industry; and as the only known artisan's shop remaining in Middletown from that early period.

#19

Its Makers and Their Marks (Houghton Mifflin Co., 1940); 1825 Barnun Map; 1874 Beers Atlas



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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: 5/90

Danforth Pewter Shop
South Main Street (formerly 120 College Street)
Middletown, CT 06457

